

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1732

ANSWERED ON:03.03.2003

DECLARATION OF 2003 AS FRESH WATER YEAR

A.P. JITHENDER REDDY;AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER;CHANDRA NATH SINGH;SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have decided to declare 2003 as the year of fresh water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the schemes formulated by the Government in this regard and the funds provided to the State Governments for the purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Government of India has declared 2003 as 'Freshwater Year' in keeping with the United Nations' Resolution declaring the year 2003 as "International Year of Freshwater". The objectives are:

- Increasing awareness among stakeholders regarding scarcity value of freshwater.
- Conservation and efficient use of Freshwater.
- Preservation of Freshwater-quality and its ecosystem.
- Augmentation of freshwater resources.
- Community partnership for informed decision making.

(c) To meet the objectives mentioned above, activities to create awareness about the need for Freshwater conservation, preserving Freshwater eco-system and initiating new programmes on freshwater has been taken up. This will target various groups in the country such as youth and children, women, farmers and villagers as well as policy and opinion makers. The State Governments are also to initiate similar activities with their own resources in their states with technical support from Central agencies.